

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 SS-20 L-03 H-03

NSC-07 STR-08 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 EUR-25

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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O R 011050Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 748

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMMSSIN USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, OCON, CE

SUBJ: ECAFE: USE OF RUSSIAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE

1. DURING DISCUSSION OTHER SUBJECT MORNING APRIL 1 AT ECAFE PLENARY SESSION, SOVIET DEL ANNOUNCED IT WAS TABLING DRAFT RES WHICH WOULD MAKE RUSSIAN A WORKING LANGUAGE OF ECAFE. ASKED THAT SUBJECT BE TAKEN UP ALONG WITH SIMILAR RES ON CHINESE LANGUAGE, WHICH IS ALREADY ON AGENDA. LATTER MAY COME UP AS EARLY AS TUESDAY, 2 APRIL.

2. IN PRESENTING ITS CASE, SOVIET DEL SIAD IT HAD AT LAST YEAR'S PLENARY SESSION RESERVED RIGHT TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL AND SO WAS NOW DOING SO. ARGUMENT BASED ON USSR'S LONG INVOLVEMENT IN ECAFE AND FACT MORE THAN HALF OF THAT COUNTRY IS IN ASIA. LATTER POINT, OF COURSE, HAS TO DO WITH WHETHER USSR IS REGIONAL OR NON-REGIONAL ECAFE MEMBER. WE AND MOST OTHERS ACCEPT IT AS NON-REGIONAL.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH POSITION PAPER ON SUBJECT, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT CHINESE LANGUAGE RESOLUTION. OUR INCLINATION IS TO OPPOSE RUSSIAN AND, IF NECESSARY, RISE QUESTIONS

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ATION IS TO OPPOSE RUSSIAN AND, IF NECESSARY, RISE QUESTIONS

INVOLVING BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS. PLEASE SEND INSTRUCTIONS
BY OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 2 LOCAL TIME.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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